

# Hello, Year Six!

We are continuing our work on the Doors unit this week – from the Talk for Writing Home-School unit by Jamie Thomas. This week, you will be writing some more poetry before going on to plan and begin your own portal story.



# Work your way through this presentation and follow the instructions for each activity.

You will need:

- Your home learning exercise book to write in.
- Some scrap paper for note taking and doodles.
- A pen and pencil
- A quiet space

# This session is called 'New Worlds' Here is an extract from the booklet.

One of the challenges facing an author of a portal story is when the new world is one outside of our own reality and our world that we know. Whilst fantasy allows us to tap into the world of possibility, it also can lead to low-level writing. The trick is to use an image or stimulus and look closely at it, noticing the elements that catch your eye and are interesting to you as the reader.

On the next slides, you will see a worked example of this idea, which you can use to help you when it's your turn to write.

# Focus on the detail – and use a picture or an object as a stimulus.

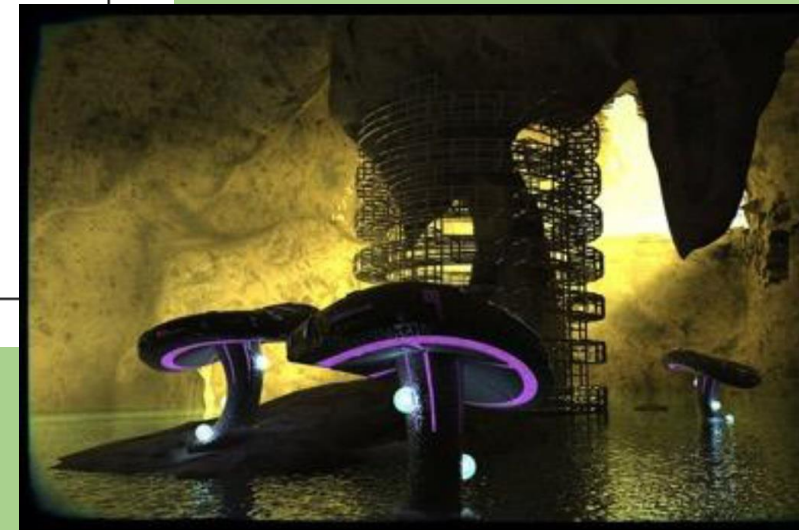
Look closely at the image and decide what elements are worth describing and exploring further. These will normally be things that you find your eye being drawn to. In this image, Jamie Thomas is drawn to the toadstools, the scaffolding staircase, the cave and the light. See what he does with these items on the next slide.



## Step 2: Generate language and ideas

Take each item in turn and brainstorm any vocabulary that each evokes. Jot down all of the ideas, no matter what pops into your head. Remember, it is often the random ideas that eventually prove to be the most fruitful.

Cave	Toadstools	Scaffolding staircase	Light
vast	neon	entwined	blistering
secluded	domed	snaked	bright
empty	jellyfish	spiral	piercing
hungry	umbrellas	helter-skelter	penetrating
jagged	glisten	swirl	blinding
brittle	glow	whirl	harsh
rough	charred	twirling	intense
lonely	leathery	steely	severe





Now you try, using this image – or choose one of your own if you prefer. Choose features that your eye is drawn to and jot them down and underline them. You may want to make them into a mind-map or copy the table layout as on the previous page. When you have got a few items, jot down all the ideas they evoke – record whatever pops into your head.



# Step 3: Extend the Imagery

Once you have tuned into the vocabulary that surrounds the image, play with creating short poetic lines. To do this, consider what the items are like or what they are doing. By playing with these ideas, you are in fact exploring figurative techniques such as simile, metaphor and personification. Remember – this is poetry, so focus on each word and make sure it earns its place. Here is an example based on the brainstorm above:

Hungry and alone, the **cave** waits;  
Jagged teeth poised in anticipation.  
Neon **toadstools** glow;  
Jellyfish umbrellas glistening in the darkness.  
Like a helter-skelter, a snaked **staircase** swirls,  
Seeking solace from the harsh, blistering **light**.

**Step 2: Generate language and ideas**

Take each item in turn and brainstorm any vocabulary that each evokes. Jot down all of the ideas, no matter what pops into your head. Remember, it is often the random ideas that eventually prove to be the most fruitful.

Cave	Toadstools	Scaffolding staircase	Light
vast	neon	entwined	blistering
secluded	domed	snaked	bright
empty	jellyfish	spiral	piercing
hungry	umbrellas	helter-skelter	penetrating
jagged	glisten	swirl	blinding
brittle	glow	whirl	harsh
rough	charred	twirling	intense
lonely	leathery	steely	severe





# Step 3: Extend the Imagery

Over to you! Take the language and ideas you generated for your brainstorm on this – or your chosen image – and make your own poetic verse. As in the example, try to use rich, descriptive language and see if you can incorporate similes, metaphors and personification. Share your poetry with me on SeeSaw.

